

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

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R 120355Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6693

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TOKYO 11740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EA, PFOR, XA, CH UR, JA, ECON

SUBJECT: US-JAPAN CONSULTATIONS ON AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: ONE AND ONE-HALF DAYS CONSULTATION BETWEEN
U.S. AND JAPAN ON AFRICA DEMONSTRATED CLOSE IDENTITY OF VIEWS
IN ASSESSMENT OF AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, U.S. SEES
FUTURE RELATIONS WITH AFRICA WILL FOCUS ON TRADE, MONETARY,
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES, WHILE JAPANESE TENDED TO
LOOK AT FUTURE RELATIONS IN POLITICAL TERMS AND EVEN HERE
SHOWED MINIMUM INVOLVEMENT. ONLY IN CASE OF SOUTHERN
AFRICA DID JAPAN INDICATE SERIOUS INTEREST IN QUESTIONS
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OF TRADE AND ACCESS TO VITAL RESOURCES. MEETINGS BELIEVED

ESPECIALLY USEFUL AS CONTRIBUTION TO CLIMATE OF FRANK
COOPERATION IN US-JAPANESE RELATIONS. END SUMMARY

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MID-EAST AND AFRICAN
AFFAIRS BUREAU, HIDEO TANAKA AND STAFF, DEMONSTRATED CLOSE
IDENTITY OF VIEWS IN ASSESSING PROBLEMS WE AND JAPANESE FACE
IN AFRICA, ALTHOUGH JAPANESE CLEARLY LESS WELL-INFORMED AND
LESS QUOTE INVOLVED UNQUOTE. DISCUSSIONS AGREED THAT AFRICANS
ASSERTING MORE ACTIVELY THEIR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPEN-
DENCE, THAT SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES REQUIRED SPECIAL ATTEN-
TION AND THAT GROWING ROLE OF CHINA (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT
SOVIETS) WAS CLEAR IN MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES. BOTH SIDES RECOG-
NIZE THAT AFRICANS WILL CONTINUE TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE INSTI-
TUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS THEY INHERITED AT INDEPENDENCE
TOWARD A VARIETY OF NEW REGIMES, FOR THE MOST PART MILITARY
DICTATORSHIPS OR ONE-PARTY STATES. AFRICANS WILL ADOPT
THEIR OWN STYLE. THE PROCESS WILL INVOLVE SOME INSTABILITY,
FAILURES, AND EVEN HUMAN TRAGEDIES, BUT THERE IS LITTLE THAT
U.S. OR JAPAN CAN DO TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF THESE EVENTS.
WE SHALL HAVE TO WORK WITH AFRICAN REGIMES AND INSTITUTIONS
AS THEY EVOLVE WITHIN CERTAIN LIMITS DICTATED BY BOTH
DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

3. MORE AND MORE THE U.S. SEES MAJOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS
BECOMING OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND TENDING TO OVERSHADOW
POLITICAL ISSUES. HIGHLIGHTS ARE NEGOTIATION WITH THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, CONTINUED SLOW RATE OF RECONOMIC GROWTH,
INSTABILITY OF COMMODITY PRICES AND INFLATION IN THE INDUS-
TRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND INCREASED IMPORTANCE OF AFRICA AS
A SOURCE OF INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS. THE JAPANESE SIDE
DID NOT DISAGREE WITH THESE POINTS BUT CLEARLY SHOWED
GREATER INTEREST IN POLITICAL QUESTIONS, MOST STRIKING IN
THE IMPORTANCE JAPAN ATTACHES TO THE EFFECTIVE GROWTH OF
CHINESE INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. WHILE SHOWING APPARENT CONCERN
OVER GROWTH OF CHINESE POLITICAL INFLUENCE, JAPANESE
FELT AFRICANS ARE INCREASINGLY CAUTIOUS AND DO NOT WISH TO
COMPROMISE THEIR INDEPENDENCE. CHINA'S AIMS ARE IDEOLOGICAL,
TO COUNTER SOVIET INTERESTS AND BOLSTER LEADERSHIP IN THIRD
WORLD.

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4. INTERESTING POINTS MADE BY JAPANESE INCLUDED:

(A) AFRICANS HAVE MORE POLITICAL OPTIONS DUE TO
INCREASED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BY CHINA, LIBYA, AND SAUDI
ARABIA.

(B) AS RELATIONS WITH FORMER METROPOLES EVOLVE,
NIGERIA SEEMS TO BE ASSUMING LEADERSHIP ROLE PLAYED

PREVIOUSLY BY IVORY COAST, SENEGAL AND KENYA. JAPANESE BELIEVE ANGLOPHONE-FRANCOPHONE ACCORD ON APPROACH TO EC IS OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. JAPAN SUPPORTS U.S. VIEW ON REVERSE PREFERENCES. (WE HAD FEELING JAPANESE UNDER-ESTIMATE TENACITY OF FRENCH INFLUENCE IN WEST AFRICA.)

(C) LIBYANS SAY THEY WILL TRY JAL HIJACKERS BUT JAPAN DOES NOT EXPECT LARG TO AGREE TO JAPANESE REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION.

(D) AFRICA HAS A LOW PRIORITY IN SOVIET DIPLOMACY, BUT RUSSIANS ARE CONCENTRATING ON NORTH AFRICA AND NORTH-EAST AFRICA IN RELATION TO THEIR PERSIAN GULF AND INDIAN OCEAN INTERESTS.

(E) JAPAN BELIEVES AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW IN OCTOBER IS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE FOR SOVIETS IN CONFRONTATION WITH CHINA.

(F) JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY IS STUDYING FEASIBILITY OF USING IRON ORE FROM GUINEA INCLUDING PROSPECTS FOR SALES IN AMERICAN MARKET. JAPANESE BELIEVE GABONESE IRON ORE TOO HIGH IN PHOSPHOROUS TO MAKE EXPLOITATION FEASIBLE, BUT JAPAN TOLD GABON IT WOULD STUDY PARTICIPATION IN THE RAIL-WAY PROJECT. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU MADE SPECIFIC REQUEST FOR JAPANESE HELP ON THIS PROJECT.

(G) JAPAN'S DILEMMA ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IS CONFLICT BETWEEN OPPOSITION TO RACIST AND COLONIALIST POLICIES AND THE VITAL NEED FOR NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH MEANS INCREASING TRADE, NOW EQUAL TO THAT WITH ALL OF BLACK AFRICA.

(H) JAPAN IS STUDYING MEASURES TO MAKE APPLICATION OF RHODESIAN SANCTIONS MORE EFFECTIVE.
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(I) A JAPANESE OFFICIAL (FUGEI) RECENTLY VISITED SOUTHERN AFRICA AND MADE CONTACT WITH THREE LIBERATION LEADERS (UNSPECIFIED). HE FELT THEY WERE UNORGANIZED AND OUT OF TOUCH WITH UN.

(J) JAPAN WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO ASIA, BUT AID TO AFRICA IS GROWING. NIGERIA AND ZAIRE WILL RECEIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION. NEW COMMITMENTS OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 1972 EXCEEDED \$115 MILLION.
LOAN TERMS ARE SOFTENING BUT REMAIN ABOUT FOUR PERCENT FOR 20 YEARS WITH SEVEN YEARS GRACE.

(K) JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT GROWING DEBT PROBLEMS

BUT FEEL THERE IS LITTLE THEY CAN DO ABOUT BORROWINGS IN
THE PRIVATE MARKET.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TOKYO 11740

(L) JAPANESE SIDE, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF BASICALLY
POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF DIRGEN TANAKA, SHOWED SURPRISINGLY
LITTLE INTEREST IN OTHER QUESTIONS RELATING TO ACCESS TO
RESOURCES. TWO OFFERS TO DISCUSS LIBYAN QUESTION WERE MET
BY COMMENTS THEY HAD LITTLE INTEREST THIS AREA SINCE BULK
THEIR PETROLEUM CAME FROM GULF. EXCEPT IN CONTEXT SOUTH
AFRICA, THERE WAS NO REFERENCE TO SPECIAL IMPORTANCE AFRICAN
RESOURCES FOR JAPAN.

5. THE UTILITY OF THESE EXCHANGES FOR JAPAN-US RELATIONS WAS

REAFFIRMED AND TANAKA INDICATED HIS DESIRE FOR CONTINUING
CLOSE CONTACT ON AFRICA WITH EMBASSY TOKYO AND THE DEPART-
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MENT. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM ASSURED HIM OF OUR
COOPERATION AND WELCOMED A RETURN VISIT BY JAPAN TO
WASHINGTON.
INGERSOLL

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